

Waivers – Internal Process for Approval

1. When Waivers are submitted, they will be put into PDF format and sent to the Accountability team.
2. The Accountability Team will set up Waiver meetings on a weekly basis on Fridays at 3:00 p.m.
3. The Accountability Team will read over all submitted Waivers before the Friday meeting.
4. The Accountability Team will review the Waivers together and fill out a form (attached) to determine if the Waiver is permissible according to the terms of the contract and to determine who else needs to review the Waiver.
5. If other divisions/departments need to review the Waiver, they will be invited to the following week's Waiver meeting to review the Waiver.
6. Once the Waivers have been reviewed, the form with recommendation for approval or approval with conditions will go to the Area Assistant Superintendent. If the Waiver is disapproved because the criteria for flexibility is not met, the form and reason will be sent to the Area Assistant Superintendent.
7. The Area Assistant Superintendent will review and present to the Senior Team for final approval if needed. If not, the Area Assistant Superintendent will give to the Principal. If the Waiver is not recommended for approval, the Principal will need to correct any suggested issues and then resubmit the Waiver form with the corrections.
8. The Accountability Office will keep a list of all waivers requested and the recommendation of the Waiver committee on file.
9. Approved Waivers will be posted on the Accountability Department's website for logged-in users to view.
10. Waivers must be submitted annually.
11. The window for submission is January 1 to June 30 each year.
12. Waivers should be reflected in the School Improvement Plan.

Waiver Response Form

School Name _____

Waiver Summary _____

Type of Waiver (see attached Waiver listing) _____

Does the Waiver meet the criteria for flexibility?

If yes, continue filling out this form. _____

If no, list the reason (Additional funding required, Federal Law, etc.) _____

Review by other departments?

_____ Transportation

_____ Curriculum and Instruction

_____ School Nutrition

_____ Technology

_____ HR

_____ Finance

_____ Title 1

_____ Other _____

Feedback:

Recommend for Approval:

_____ **YES**

_____ **NO**

_____ **CONDITIONAL**

Flexibility Waivers for RCSS Schools

Listed below are the waivers requested by the Richmond County School System. Examples for how they can be used by each school are in italics below each option. These are examples for how they can be used, but you have the flexibility to submit your original ideas. You must fill out a form requesting the waivers. The form will be reviewed by a Strategic Waivers Committee and then by the Superintendent's Senior Leadership Team. Once it is approved, your school will be notified.

- 1. Flexibility with regards to Class-size and Reporting requirements (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-182) related to class size, staffing allotments, and utilization. *RCSS seeks to waive the requirements related to class size, staffing allotments, student caseload, and utilization to increase learning opportunities for all students.*
- 2. Flexibility with regards to Certification requirements (O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-108, 20-2-200, 20-2-201, 20-2-204). *RCSS seeks flexibility from state certification requirements to allow for the selection of qualified applicants based on content expertise and knowledge.*
- 3. Flexibility with regards to Educational Programs (O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-151.2, 20-2-153, 20-2-154, 20-2-154.1, 20-2-155). *RCSS seeks flexibility in the requirements related to staffing, class size and program delivery/time requirements and models to offer a variety of delivery models including but not limited to advanced content at the elementary level, and to allow the system an opportunity to provide support to individual students based on need.*
- 4. Flexibility with regards to ELL Program requirements (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-156) related to staffing, class size and program delivery/time/requirements/models. *RCSS seeks flexibility from the requirements related to staffing, class size and program delivery/time requirements and models including but not limited to serving those students with Level 1 or 2 Language Proficiency via additional segments.*
- 5. Flexibility with regards to Education Program for Gifted Students (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.38) related to staffing, class size, and program delivery/time/requirements/models. *RCSS seeks flexibility in the requirements related to staffing, class size and program delivery/time requirements and models to offer a variety of delivery models including but not limited to advanced content at the elementary level.*
- 6. Flexibility with regards to Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Program except as prohibited by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-82(e) (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.12) related to scheduling and minutes of instruction. *RCSS seeks flexibility from the requirement to provide flexible pathways for students to meet the required physical education courses.*
- 7. Flexibility with regards to School Day and School Year for Students and Employees (O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-151, 20-2-160(a), 20-2-165 (except to the extent it relates to funding), 20-2-168(c), 20-2-290) related to requirements for minutes of instruction at each level, scheduling, and staffing. *RCSS seeks to waive allotted requirements of instruction time at each level to allow schools to focus time on areas that are a priority for improving student achievement including but not limited to flexibility in the structure of providing 180 school days for students.*

- 8. Flexibility with regards to Competencies and Core Curriculum, Online Learning, Alternative and Traditional Education Programs (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-140.1, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-142) *RCSS seeks flexibility in order to increase course offerings and program participation both inside and outside the system and scheduled school day.*
- 9. Flexibility with regards to Promotion and Retention: (O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-283, 20-2-284) related to the timeline for decision making while preserving due process rights and with regards to Statewide Passing Score (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.13(2)(a) and (2)(c)). *RCSS seeks flexibility to plan and place students for promotion, placement, and retention as soon as practicable.*
- 10. Flexibility with regards to Graduation Requirements and Awarding Credit for the purpose of substitution of equivalent or higher level requirements which will assist students in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful as they continue their education at the postsecondary level and/or enter the workforce (SBOE Rules 160-5-1-.15, 160-4-2-.48, and 160-4-2-.47). *RCSS seeks flexibility with regards to graduation requirements and awarding credit.*
- 11. Flexibility with regards to Employment, Conditions of Employment as it relates to Duty Free Lunch (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-218). *RCSS seeks flexibility to allow the system to meet time and work requirements of each individual school site.*
- 12. Flexibility with regards to School Attendance, Compulsory Attendance as it relates to the attendance protocol (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.2). *RCSS seeks flexibility to encourage attendance and to address excessive absenteeism based on the circumstances of each case.*
- 13. Flexibility with regards to Public School Choice (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2131). *RCSS seeks flexibility to allow students greater public school choice based on the capacity of the school building, available space, programming needs, and conditions of transportation by parents and/or school system.*